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STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 3909. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make employers of spouses of military personnel eligible for the work opportunity credit; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Military Spouse Hiring Act with my colleagues Senators BOOZMAN, HASSAN, and ROUNDS. Enacting this bill would improve financial stability for Blue Star families across the country.

The families of America's servicemembers make sacrifices that often go unrecognized. Among them is packing up and moving frequently, with military spouses regularly having to leave stable employment to move to a new area and start over. This is compounded by the complex system of State licensing and certification requirements, which can prevent these spouses from taking jobs that utilize their expertise and experience. Because of this, military spouses have unemployment rates substantially higher than the national average, and they are often underemployed when they do have jobs. Adding to the financial struggles caused by frequent periods of unemployment and underemployment, the rising cost of child care puts a substantial burden on many military families.

The Military Spouse Hiring Act would help these families by making military spouses an eligible population for the work opportunity tax credit. This tax credit has proven effective in improving employment prospects for other groups. Extending it to military spouses would help them find employment more easily after moving to new areas.

I hope my colleagues will support this bill to help families who have made the greatest sacrifice for our nation.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 3911. A bill to establish the Shenandoah Mountain National Scenic Area in the State of Virginia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation that is the product of 18 years of collaborative work from a diverse group of stakeholders in Virginia, including local recreation groups, conservationists, timber industry representatives, and sportsmen.

The Shenandoah Mountain Act of 2022 would designate more than 92,000 acres of the George Washington National Forest in Virginia as the Shenandoah Mountain National Scenic Area, SMNSA.

Congress designates national scenic areas to protect the natural and scenic value of lands that are also compatible with recreational uses such as hiking, fishing, hunting, camping, mountain biking, among others.

The SMNSA encompasses four wilderness areas: Skidmore Fork, Little River, Ramsey's Draft, and Lynn Hollow, which in total include 10 peaks above 4,000 feet and 150 miles of trails to attract campers, hikers, mountain bikers, fishermen, birders, and equestrians. The legislation also establishes a 5,764 acre wilderness area at Beech Lick Knob, located 10 miles to the north.

The SMNSA will protect important water resources, as it contains headwaters for the Potomac and James Rivers and watersheds that provide drinking water sources for Harrisonburg, Staunton, and communities farther downstream, such as Washington, DC, and Richmond. It is also a hotspot for biodiversity. Cold mountain streams in the area are also a stronghold for native brook trout. Today's legislation would permanently protect those rivers and streams from industrial development, and it would also help safeguard plant and wildlife habitat for black bears, wild turkeys, more than 250 species of birds, and at-risk species like the Cow Knob and Shenandoah Mountain salamanders.

The Shenandoah Mountain National Scenic Area will provide a boost to the region's growing tourism industry. In 2019, the tourism economy directly employed 5,365 people and generated \$601 million in Augusta, Rockingham, and Highland Counties, as well as Harrisonburg and Staunton. Designation of the SMNSA would further grow this value.

These challenging past 2 years have underscored that getting out into nature is critical to our health and well-being. I am proud that the Shenandoah Mountain Act will expand these opportunities within the George Washington National Forest for visitors near and far, while also boosting our local economies, protecting drinking water sources, and preserving the wildlife that makes this area so special.

The local governments of Staunton, Augusta, Rockingham, and Harrisonburg, along with over 400 businesses and organizations, have endorsed the new designation for the vast benefits it will have on the surrounding communities. I thank my colleague Senator MARK WARNER for joining me in introducing this legislation. I also commend our local stakeholders for working on this proposal for so many years.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5003. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5002 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 4521, to provide for a coordinated Federal research initiative to ensure continued United States leadership in engineering biology.

SA 5004. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5003 proposed

by Mr. SCHUMER to the amendment SA 5002 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 4521, supra.

SA 5005. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4521, supra.

SA 5006. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5005 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 4521, supra.

SA 5007. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4521, supra.

SA 5008. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5007 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 4521, supra.

SA 5009. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5008 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the amendment SA 5007 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 4521, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5003. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5002 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 4521, to provide for a coordinated Federal research initiative to ensure continued United States leadership in engineering biology; as follows:

At the end, add the following: "This Act shall take effect on the date that is 1 day after the date of the enactment of this Act."

SA 5004. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5003 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the amendment SA 5002 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 4521, to provide for a coordinated Federal research initiative to ensure continued United States leadership in engineering biology; as follows:

On page 1, line 2, strike "1 day" and insert "2 days".

SA 5005. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4521, to provide for a coordinated Federal research initiative to ensure continued United States leadership in engineering biology; as follows:

At the end, add the following: "This Act shall take effect on the date that is 3 days after the date of the enactment of this Act."

SA 5006. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5005 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 4521, to provide for a coordinated Federal research initiative to ensure continued United States leadership in engineering biology; as follows:

On page 1, line 2, strike "3 days" and insert "4 days".

SA 5007. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4521, to provide for a coordinated Federal research initiative to ensure continued United States leadership in engineering biology; as follows:

At the end, add the following: "This Act shall take effect on the date that is 5 days after the date of the enactment of this Act."

SA 5008. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5007 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 4521, to provide for a coordinated Federal research initiative to ensure continued United States leadership in engineering biology; as follows:

On page 1, line 2, strike “5 days” and insert “6 days”.

SA 5009. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5008 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the amendment SA 5007 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 4521, to provide for a coordinated Federal research initiative to ensure continued United States leadership in engineering biology; as follows:

On page 1, line 1, strike “6 days” and insert “7 days”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I have ten requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 9 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on the Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during

the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

The Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I have one request for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 2:15 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 4373

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4373) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

Mr. SCHUMER. I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY COORDINATION AND LEADERSHIP ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 225, S. 516.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 516) to plan for and coordinate efforts to integrate advanced air mobility aircraft into the national airspace system, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Advanced Air Mobility Coordination and Leadership Act”.

SEC. 2. ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY WORKING GROUP.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall establish an advanced air mobility interagency working group (in this section referred to as the “working group”).

(b) *SENSE OF CONGRESS.*—It is the sense of Congress that Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) represents a key area of sustainable transportation and economic growth for the United States and globally, and that it is imperative that the United States take a leadership role in the adoption and furtherance of this technology. Therefore, given the path to initial operations is taking place utilizing today's regulatory framework, it is critical that government agencies collaborate and focus on taking this vital industry to the next level through policy and investment in energy, infrastructure, security and transportation. The focus of the working group is interagency coordination to enable the maturation and growth of AAM.

(c) *PURPOSE.*—The purpose of the working group established under this section is to plan for and coordinate efforts related to safety, infrastructure, physical security and cybersecurity, and Federal investment necessary for maturation of the AAM ecosystem, particularly passenger-carrying aircraft, in the United States in order to—

- (1) further United States leadership;
- (2) grow new transportation options;
- (3) amplify economic activity and jobs;
- (4) advance environmental sustainability and new technologies; and
- (5) support emergency preparedness and competitiveness.

(d) *MEMBERSHIP.*—The working group shall be comprised of at least 1 representative of each of the following Federal departments and agencies:

- (1) Department of Transportation.
- (2) Federal Aviation Administration.
- (3) National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
- (4) Department of Commerce
- (5) Department of Defense.
- (6) Department of Energy.
- (7) Department of Homeland Security.
- (8) Department of Agriculture.
- (9) Department of Labor.
- (10) Federal Communications Commission.
- (11) Such other departments or agencies as the Secretary of Transportation determines appropriate.

(e) *COORDINATION.*—The working group shall engage with State, local, and Tribal governments, industry and labor stakeholders, stakeholder associations, and others determined appropriate by the Secretary of Transportation, including—

- (1) manufacturers of avionics, AAM use aircraft, propulsion systems, structures, and air traffic management systems;
- (2) air carriers, commercial operators, general aviation operators and future AAM operators;
- (3) airports;
- (4) fixed-based operators, as defined in FAA Advisory Circular 150/5190-7;
- (5) certified labor representatives for pilots associations, air traffic control specialists employed by the Federal Aviation Administration, and aviation safety inspectors;
- (6) State, local, and Tribal officials or public agencies, with representation from both urban and rural areas;
- (7) first responders;
- (8) groups representing environmental interests;
- (9) electric utilities, energy providers and market operators of electricity;
- (10) academia with experience working with industry on new technology and commercialization;